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6 Sept 62

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CENTRAL

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BULLETIN



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Algeria: The compromise under which Ben Bella's political bureau was re-established in Algiers probably resulted from the realization of all leaders that public opinion would not support civil war.

Although the mood of the populace appears to be more one of relief than of active support for Ben Bella, most of the population will almost certainly rally to him if he demonstrates his ability to restore order quickly.

The basic question of the political role of the army remains unresolved. Chief of Staff Boumedienne may now demand greater political influence as the price of his support of Ben Bella.

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*Laos: The coalition government at a 4 September cabinet meeting in Luang Prabang formally approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with a number of Communist countries including China, North Vietnam, and East Germany. No action was taken with regard to North Korea, however.

The recognition of the Peiping and Hanoi regimes may lead Taipei and Saigon to withdraw their ambassadors from Laos, although the Chinese Nationalists have indicated they will remain until a Chinese Communist ambassador is actually accredited, and the South Vietnamese apparently hold parallel views.

Peiping will attempt to pressure the Laotian government into withdrawing recognition of Taipei; in the past Peiping has refused to send an ambassador to a government while Chinese Nationalist representatives are accredited.

The full diplomatic recognition planned for East Germany would make Laos the first non-Communist country to so honor the Ulbricht regime, and it comes at a most propitious time for both East Berlin and Moscow who are heavily engaged in an effort to gain some degree of formal recognition of East German sovereignty in the non-Communist world. To date only bloc countries and Yugoslavia have given full diplomatic recognition to the Ulbricht regime although the UAR, Burma, Indonesia, and Cambodia have been persuaded to establish consular ties.

Bonn will undoubtedly make every effort to dissuade the Laotian government from recognizing East

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Germany. If it fails in this, the West German government can be expected to take retaliatory measures—severance of relations or at least cancellation of any offers of economic assistance.

No pub	lic announce:	ment of these	decisions will
be made un	til the Laotia	n government	and the gov-
ernments in	volved have	agreed to exc	hange repre-
sentatives.			
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